



Department of Justice

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HEROIN TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO 200 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR INVOLVEMENT IN OVERDOSE DEATH

COLUMBUS — Victor Delgadillo Parra, age 21, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 200 months imprisonment for committing manslaughter when he sold heroin to a Grove City man who then died from an overdose of the drug.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Anthony C. Marotta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration; Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes, and Grove City Police Chief Joseph Wise announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.

Parra and co-defendant Jose Manuel Cazares Contreras, age 30, pleaded guilty on February 21, 2008 to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than one kilogram of cocaine, and one count of conspiracy to distribute heroin resulting in serious bodily injury or death, a crime also known as manslaughter using illegal drugs.

Judge Sargus sentenced Parra to 120 months imprisonment for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin and 200 months imprisonment for the heroin manslaughter charge and ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

The DEA Columbus District Office, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Grove City Police Department initiated an investigation in August 2007 into a Mexican black tar heroin trafficking organization operating in the greater Columbus, Ohio area. According to information received by investigators, heroin users called a local telephone number, spoke to an individual, later identified as Contreras, and ordered heroin. The individual in turn dispatched a runner, Parra, to deliver the heroin to the users.

On August 29, 2007, law enforcement responded to a report of an overdose death in Grove City. The Franklin County Coroner's Office ruled the cause of death a result of acute heroin intoxication. Investigators connected the heroin that killed the victim to Contreras and Parra. Both men are Mexican immigrants in the United States illegally.

Task Force agents arrested Contreras and Parra on October 17, 2007. They have been in custody since their arrest.

Judge Sargus sentenced Contreras to 15 years imprisonment on June 5, 2008

The case is the result of an ongoing investigation by an Ohio High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force, known as the Southwest Border Task Force. The Task Force has been in existence for approximately three years. It is funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The Task Force's mission is to identify and dismantle drug trafficking

organizations operating in Columbus, Ohio with direct ties to the southwest border of the United States and the Republic of Mexico.

Lockhart commended the investigation by the Grove City Police officers, Franklin County Sheriff's Deputies and DEA agents, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dave DeVillers, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James Lowe from the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorneys Office who prosecuted the case. Other agencies participating in the Task Force include the Fairfield Hocking Major Crimes Unit and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

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